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House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. SIMPSON).

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,
April 30, 2003.

I hereby appoint the Honorable MICHAEL K. SIMPSON to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

J. DENNIS HASTERT,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

PRAYER

Rabbi Manny Behar, Executive Director, Queens Jewish Community Council, Forest Hills, New York, offered the following prayer:

Today people around the world remember the martyrdom of 6 million Jews who perished in the Holocaust. We also remember the leadership shown in this very Chamber, and the courage of our Armed Forces who brought an end to the Holocaust by defeating the Nazi regime.

Today, as always, we as a Nation stand for freedom and opportunity for ourselves and for all people. Once again, the men and women of this great body are called upon to make decisions that will impact on the future of individuals, of nations, of all humankind. Certainly such an awesome responsibility demands that we turn to God in prayer.

May God on this day and every day grant all the Members of the House of Representatives the wisdom to make the decisions that will make a nation and a world where all may enjoy peace, freedom, and opportunity. May you go from strength to strength in the service of God's children.

May God continue to grant success to our soldiers in Iraq, Afghanistan, and

around the world. May they speedily achieve their mission and return home to the embrace of their families, and may God always bestow his blessings on the United States of America.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. TERRY) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. TERRY led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Mr. Monahan, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate has passed a Concurrent Resolution of the following title in which the concurrence of the House is requested:

S. Con. Res. 39. Concurrent resolution supporting the goals and ideals of St. Tammany Day on May 1, 2003, as a national day of recognition for Tammany and the values he represented.

The message also announced that pursuant to Public Law 105-83, the Chair, on behalf of the Democratic Leader, announces the appointment of the Senator from Nevada (Mr. REID) as a member of the National Council on the Arts, vice the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN).

WELCOMING RABBI MANNY BEHAR, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, QUEENS JEWISH COMMUNITY COUNCIL

(Mr. WEINER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WEINER. Mr. Speaker, it is appropriate that today, as we commemorate Yom Hashoah, the commemoration of the Holocaust here in Washington, DC, that I ask the House to join me in welcoming Rabbi Manny Behar, who gave the invocation this morning.

Rabbi Behar is one of the most prominent spiritual leaders in the Queens community. Since 1992, he has been the executive director of the Queens Jewish Community Council, an umbrella organization for more than 90 synagogues and Jewish institutions throughout our borough.

In this position, he oversees a network of social service programs which include every service we can imagine, from counseling for victims of September 11 to assistance for homebound elderly to food distribution to job placement and training.

Rabbi Behar should feel at home here in the halls of Congress, because before coming to the Queens Jewish Community Council he had a distinguished career working in government. He was special assistant to Queens Borough president Claire Shulman, where he played a critical role in obtaining the historic New York State Supreme Court decision upholding the validity of Eruvin under American law.

During his tenure working for New York City controller Elizabeth Holtzman, he did research which led to the first conviction of an American company for participating in the Arab boycott of Israel.

It is my pleasure to also welcome Rabbi Behar's wife Evelyn, his two sons Moshe David and Nathan Benjamin, his father Moshe, and his cousins, Shalom and Cynthia Brilliant, who

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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are here today. We wish Rabbi Behar's mom Rivka a speedy get well.

On behalf of the House of Representatives we would like to thank him, not only for his eloquent words this morning, but more importantly, for his service to his faith, his community, and to his country.

URGING MEMBERS TO ENACT ROBUST ECONOMIC STIMULUS PLAN THAT PRIORITIZES THE TAXPAYER AND CREATES JOBS

(Mr. RYUN of Kansas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. RYUN of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, our economy needs a boost, and it seems that lawmakers on both sides of the aisle agree on a couple of basic points: First, we must do something to stimulate the economy; Second, President Bush's tax proposal would create jobs.

Since we can agree that cutting taxes creates jobs, why would Democrats want to slash the proposed economic stimulus in half?

It is estimated that tax relief would create 700,000 jobs yearly throughout the country. In Kansas, this plan would create over 9,000 jobs per year over the next 5 years. Why do we choose to limit our success by cutting these numbers in half?

Some think the answer to our problem is to make the government a little larger. I believe the answer lies in empowering people with their own money so they can work, save, and invest in our economy.

I urge my colleagues to hold the line on spending and to enact a robust economic stimulus to prioritize taxpayers and create jobs.

THE ECONOMY

(Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to voice my strong concerns over the current state of the economy and the President's solution to stimulate this economy.

The President has defended his proposal for a tax cut of at least \$550 billion, arguing that a large tax cut will create more jobs.

Now, let us see. The last tax cut that this President did was signed into law, and it was the largest tax cut in history, with a cost nearing \$2 trillion. How effective has that been in creating jobs? Let us see. It is estimated that 53,000 United States workers lost their jobs this month alone. Unemployment is still hovering around 6 percent. So it looks to me like the President is using more of his fuzzy math here.

We need to work to come up with real solutions that reduce unemployment and that help us with respect to

education, the environment, child care, and, yes, a prescription drug plan for seniors.

If Members want to cut taxes, then alleviate the tax burden on the working poor and on the middle class; do not do it to the wealthy, who are the least likely to get this economy turning.

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF MR. CRUZ ACOSTA

(Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the life and spirit of Mr. Cruz Acosta, a wonderful constituent and an exceptional human being who remains high-spirited despite his struggle with cancer.

Cruz was the first in his family to leave the tyranny of Cuba in search of freedom, living his life in appreciation of the liberty he found here in the United States.

Throughout the last 11 years, he has fought bone marrow cancer and leukemia, but his continuous desire for better health would not have been possible without the loving care and prayers of his family and the dedicated attention of the nurses and the doctors at Baptist Hospital, an exceptional medical institution located in my district.

As he remains in the hospital today, my thoughts and my prayers are with his wife, Miriam, with Cruz, and his entire family.

CONGRESSIONAL TRIBUTE TO FIRST LIEUTENANT FREDERICK POKORNEY

(Ms. BERKLEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. BERKLEY. Mr. Speaker, United States Marine Corps First Lieutenant Frederick Pokorney was killed in action in Iraq on March 23, 2003. On that day, Nevada lost a true American patriot, a proud Marine, and a loving husband and father.

Fred was born in California and raised himself from an early age, until he moved to Tonopah, Nevada, to live with Wade and Susie Lieseke, whom he regarded as his parents.

Fred's first love was his family, with his favorite time being spent with his "best little helper," his daughter. His second love was the Marines and this great Nation.

When I spoke to Fred's wife, Chelle, she said that he embodied what it is to be a Marine: honor, courage, commitment.

Lieutenant Pokorney's daughter Taylor expressed her loss in these words: "My daddy, my hero, I will take care of mommy for you as you asked. We will be best friends. I will take her to Sea World for my birthday like you planned. I love you. I need you. I miss you."

The hearts of all Nevadans and all Americans go out to his family and friends. Our thoughts and prayers are with his wife, Shelly, and their 3-year-old daughter, Taylor.

CONDEMNING TERRORIST ATTACK IN TEL AVIV

(Mr. WILSON of South Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, Mahmoud Abbas, also known as Abu Mazen, was approved yesterday as the first Palestinian prime minister. Hours before he was sworn in, a suicide bomber blew himself up at a popular nightclub known as Mike's Place, located right beside the U.S. embassy in Tel Aviv. At least three people were killed and 30 injured, including an American.

The world's attention is now focused on the new Palestinian leader, Abu Mazen. He has denounced terrorism, but words are not enough. Mazen must do everything possible to disarm terrorist groups such as Hamas and al-Aqsa Martyrs Brigade that are doing everything possible to derail the peace process.

President George W. Bush has a vision for the Middle East, a plan that was delivered this morning where Israelis and Palestinians live side by side in peace. We must not let terrorists thwart the important peace process that is now under way.

In conclusion, God bless our troops.

CALLING ON SENATOR RICK SANTORUM TO APOLOGIZE FOR REMARKS OFFENSIVE TO GAY AND LESBIAN COMMUNITY OR TO STEP DOWN

(Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I waited patiently as the words of a Member of the other body permeated throughout our society with respect to negative comments on the gay and lesbian community.

As a Member of this great body and the Committee on the Judiciary, I have a great deal of respect and honor for the Bill of Rights and the first amendment, and the right for individuals to express their beliefs. I honor that.

But as an African American, I stand squarely and solidly against any form of discrimination. I think America loses its promise and its values and its beliefs in equal opportunity and equality for all and justice if there is a second-class discrimination.

I believe it is imperative for Senator RICK SANTORUM to apologize fully to the gay and lesbian community of this Nation and around the world or step down from leadership. We cannot tolerate this kind of reckless speech.